of the Prime Minister of Pakistan to New Delhi on November 23-24, 2004 in his capacity as the Chairperson of SAARC. Foreign Secretaries of the two countries are expected to meet in December, 2004 to initiate the next round of the Composite Dialogue.

Help to Sri Lanka

751. SHRI S.P.M. SYED KHAN: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Sri Lankan Government have sought our help to upgrade the Sri Lankan Air Force's strategic military-cum-civil airport in Jaffna;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether Government have taken a decision on the Sri Lankan Government's request?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNALAFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) Yes.

(b) Indian cooperation has been sought in resurfacing the airfield.

(c) The matter is under consideration.

Indo-China border issue

752. SHRI C. PERUMAL: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether India has taken up the issue of border with China; and

(b) if so, the progress achieved so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNALAFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) Yes.

(b) The Special Representatives of India and China on the Boundary Question are exploring the framework of a boundary settlement from the political perspective of the overall bilateral relationship. Simultaneously, the India-China Joint Working Group is engaged in seeking clarification of the Line of Actual Control in the India-China border areas. Both sides have expressed commitment to maintain peace and tranquility in the border areas, pending an ultimate settlement of the boundary question.